



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 11, 2010

The U.S. shares the concerns of the OSCE/ODIHR, EU, and others regarding the conduct of Azerbaijan's November 7 parliamentary elections. We commend Ambassador Glover and her team for their extensive efforts on behalf of democratic elections in Azerbaijan.

We call attention to our November 8 statement on the elections, which notes deficiencies in the pre-election environment including a lack of balanced media coverage of candidates, continued restrictions on fundamental freedoms of assembly and expression, and a deficient candidate registration process. It also noted serious violations of Election Day procedures, including ballot box stuffing. Taken together, these elements resulted in an uneven playing field for candidates.

We support the November 8 Preliminary Statement issued by ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and the European Parliament that "the conduct of these elections overall was not sufficient to constitute meaningful progress in the democratic development of the country."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.